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ROCHESTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COCAINE DISTRIBUTION

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that Richard R. Golden, age 53, of Rochester, New Hampshire plead guilty on Friday, February 21, 2003, in U.S. District Court in connection with the distribution of cocaine in Maine and New Hampshire between November 2001 and May 2002. Golden admitted his guilt to a five count information during a hearing before U. S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. He was detained pending a sentencing hearing which is scheduled for May 30, 2003. Under the U. S. sentencing guidelines Golden's stipulation in his plea agreement was that the weight of cocaine attributable to his conduct was 7 kilograms.

United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "Crimes such as drug trafficking impact communities and place costs on society. One of the highest priorities of the United States Attorney's Office is to continue to seek ways to prevent and reduce crime through the aggressive prosecution of these cases. This case is just one example of our continued dedication to that mission."

The successful prosecution of this case resulted from the collaborative efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force, the Somersworth Police Department, the Rochester Police Department, the Portsmouth Police Department and the Kittery, Maine Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert J. Veiga.